

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 737

By Kilby

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Mr. Stonney Ray Lane of Wartburg.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee should honor those estimable persons who, through their professional and personal endeavors, are credits to their respective families, their communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding person is Mr. Stonney Ray Lane, whose outstanding public service through years of hard work, diligence and dedication has distinguished him as an invaluable servant of our great State; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lane earned the money to pay for his early education by driving a truck hauling coal throughout the Kentucky-Tennessee region; he attended Oneida Baptist Institute and Cumberland College and graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee and a master's degree from Tennessee Technological University; it was his master's thesis that later became a textbook for the training of correctional officers in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a staunch supporter of education, Mr. Lane taught young minds at Rosedale Elementary School, Coalfield High School, and later became principal of Central High School in Wartburg; he was also the first teacher at the Brushy Mountain Prison, thus helping to establish, under the astute guidance and leadership of Warden Lake Russell, the introduction of an educational program for the inmates of Brushy Mountain, which continues to this day. It was from this successful pilot that the State Department of Correction's current educational program grew, with the hope of rehabilitating and educating the prison population. It was from this progressive thinking that those who didn't have a chance prior to being incarcerated, would have a chance to learn and better themselves, thus giving these fallen individuals a chance to survive and support themselves in the free world after their debt to society has been paid; and



WHEREAS, Mr. Lane served the Knoxville area as a Probation and Parole Officer and later became the District Director of Probation and Parole, where he oversaw a seven-county area; and

WHEREAS, he was the warden of Brushy Mountain Prison when the notorious James Earl Ray and six other inmates escaped; Mr. Lane successfully oversaw the recapture of Ray and the others, leading the investigation and manhunt for the escaped convicts through the mountainous terrain, dense woodlands, coal mines, cliffs and streams of the Petros wilderness; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lane also served for several years as the warden of the old State Honor Farm near Wartburg; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Wartburg community, Mr. Lane served from 1990-94 as the County Executive of Morgan County; and

WHEREAS, currently enjoying a quiet retirement, Mr. Lane enjoys meeting others and talking with old friends about the "good old days" at Brushy, an experience he treasures, and even wrote about in his book, *Building Time at Brushy*, a lasting tribute to all of the men and women who have worked at Brushy Mountain Penitentiary during its 100-plus years of existence; and

WHEREAS, Stonney Ray Lane is appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife and three children; and

WHEREAS, always endeavoring to make a difference in the community in which he lives, Mr. Lane has demonstrated the remarkable ability to motivate others in reaching their fullest potential, winning the respect and admiration of all those who have come to know him over the years; and

WHEREAS, seldom does a gentleman of Mr. Lane's stature walk among us, and it is most appropriate that we should specially recognize his life of purpose and commitment to the greater good of his community and this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize an exemplary Tennessean, Mr. Stonney Ray

Lane, for his dedication to the citizens of this State, as we salute his outstanding character, his generous spirit and his many good works and accomplishments in public service to this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Mr. Lane our best wishes for good health and for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.